

IN MEMORY OF JAMES PRICKETT

On 6 March 1965 a representative gathering of local body members, schoolmasters, amateur botanists and ornithologists met at Kauri Park, Birkenhead, to open officially the new Park Entrance and dedicate a park seat to the memory of the late Mr. James Prickett.

(I have had reports of this ceremony from both Miss Crookes and Mrs. Moisson, who also sent a cutting from a Shore newspaper. What follows therefore is a precis of the 3 accounts with some added notes of my own. My thanks and apologies to both ladies.)

Over 100 people attended the ceremony which impressed everyone with its simplicity and sincerity. The new entrance is a decided improvement and adds, as Mrs. Moisson says, to the beauty and dignity of an already fine bush reserve. The memorial seat, unveiled by Mr. Ross McKenzie, also met with approval. There is a vigorous young kawaka just inside the entrance which adds to the general effect, and the reserve contains several botanical rarities which are well worth preserving. Eugenia maire, Libocedrus plumosa, Mida salicifolia, Nothofagus truncata, Phebalium nudum, Phyllocladus glaucus, and among the orchids, Prasophyllum nudum and Corybas aconitiflorus. I was startled once to find a kingfern growing happily in the gully bottom, but discovered later that Jim Prickett had planted it there. I got to know him quite well some 20 years ago, during my Winter Garden days. Often on a Monday he would burst cheerfully into the nurseries bearing seedlings of native plants he had gathered during his weekend excursions into the bush. These would be potted up and reared to a decent size (and woe betide me if any should fail to thrive), then used to embellish the Cheeseman Flower Show, or planted out in the various 'native' corners of the Domain Gardens. Mr. Prickett was a foundation member of the Botanical Society and of course a tower of strength to Forest and Bird. He was most enthusiastic about forest preservation, in particular touching the security of the native birds which were his main interest. Mrs. Moisson tells me also that he was skilled in woodwork, turning out as an additional hobby, some 50 spinning wheels for the Red Cross. To end on a note from Miss Crookes - ' It is appropriate that the memorial seat should be located in Kauri Park, since Mr. Prickett's foresight, energy and enthusiasm played a great part in acquiring this beautiful reserve for the enjoyment of the public '. E.D.H.

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Mr. Lediard ran through the slides taken by various members on Egmont last January, every now and then slipping in a brightly coloured fungus for fun. Clouds and mountain tops, and Mr. Dawsons twin falls. Orchids for the editor and the usual run of alpines - Euphrasia and Ourisia, Wahlenbergia, Luzuriaga and Viola. Buttercups and daisies in profusion - sometimes in confusion, all of them beautiful and a colour photographers dream. And in and